

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the detailed comments made in the Office Action mailed January 15, 2009.

Applicant traverses the objection to the drawings in that the insulation braces **51** are identified in Fig. 6a of the application. Therefore, no amendment to the drawings is required.

Paragraphs [0052] and [0053] have been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claim 22 has been amended to include the suggestion made by the Examiner.

Referring to the objection to claims 1-3, 10, 23, 25 and 29 in the Office Action, the term “burn-through-proof” is defined in the specification as fireproof in paragraphs [0031] and [0062]-[0063]. Fireproof is a term of art defined by the FAA as a standard (attached) requiring a sample to withstand exposure at 2000°F for 15 minutes and is contrasted to the term fire resistant, which only requires a sample to withstand 5 minutes exposure at 2000°F (1093°C). Thus, the term “burn-through-proof” as defined in the specification would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant has traversed the objection on page 3, and the rejections on pages 3 and 5 of the Office Action.

Rejection under §112

In the first paragraph of page 18, the Office Action suggests that it is known in the art that nylon has a much lower conductivity than stainless steel. The Applicant agrees that it is well known in the art that a plastic of poor thermal conductivity has a lower thermal conductivity than a metal, such as stainless steel. In paragraphs [0052] and [0053] of the specification, the Applicant discloses that the disc-shaped core element is made from a metal, such as stainless steel, for example, and the casing is implemented using a plastic material of poor conductivity, for example. Thus, Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 15 under 35

U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the specification supports the language of claim 15 that “...the disk-shaped core element, is made from a metal, and the casing comprises a plastic material having a lower thermal conductivity than the metal of the disc-shaped core element.” In addition, Figs. 6 and 6a support the language of claim 15 in that the disc-shaped core element, is made from a metal, such as the disk 52 of Figs. 6 and 6a and the casing, which may be a shaped flange, as illustrated in Figs. 6 and 6a, comprises a plastic material.

Support for claims 29 and 30 can be found in the disclosure in paragraphs [0049] through [0051]. For example, the disc-shaped core element 52 is made from metal. Support for the central hole and a first surface and second surface opposite of the first surface can be found in Figure 6 and Figure 6a. The second attachment element 13, of paragraphs [0049]-[0055] discloses a shaped flange encasing at least a portion of the disk 52, for example, in Figs. 6 and 6a. The shaped flange comprises a casing and may be made of a second material, for example see paragraph [0053] of the disclosure.

Anticipation

Lea, U.S. Patent 3,567,162 fails to anticipate claims 1 and 2, as amended.

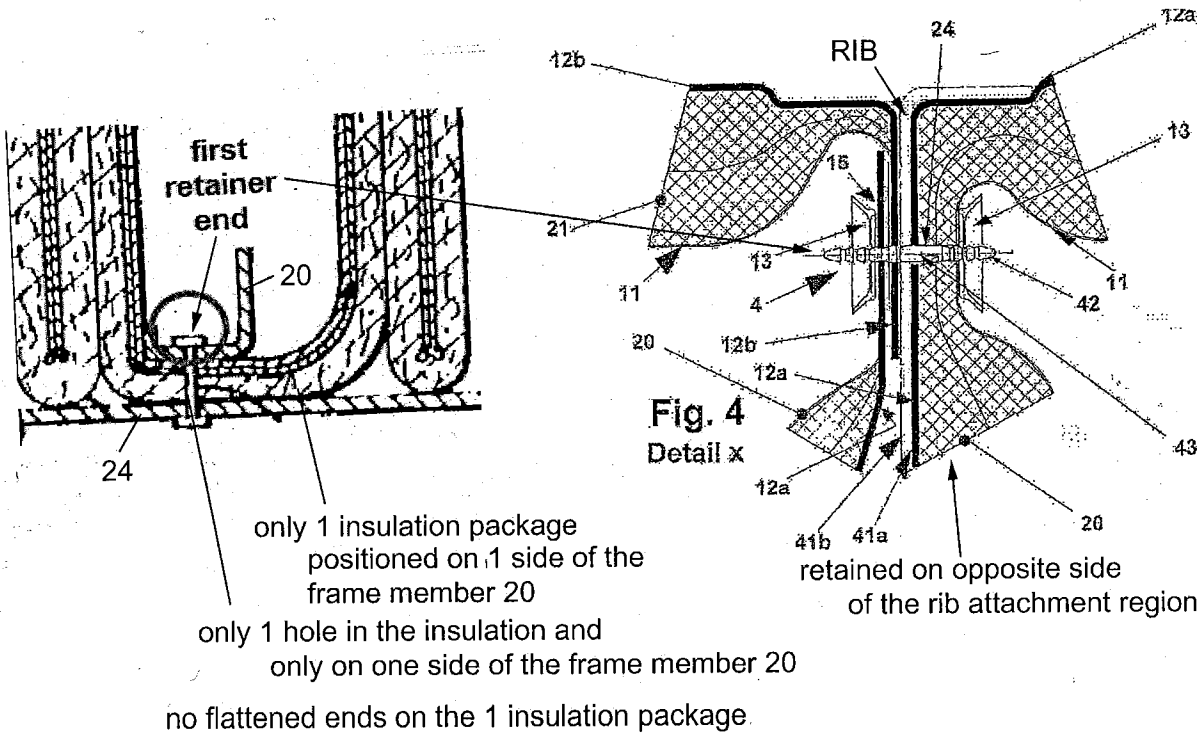
Since *Section 102* provides that an issued patent is invalid if the invention was previously described in a printed publication, *Section 102* embodies the concept of “novelty,” that is, “if a device or process has been previously invented (and disclosed to the public), then it is not new, and therefore the claimed invention is ‘anticipated’ by the prior invention.” Because the hallmark of anticipation is prior invention, the prior art reference must not only disclose all elements of the claim within the four corners of the document, but must also disclose those elements “arranged as in the claim,” i.e., not only elements but also the arrangement of those elements in one place in the specification of the cited reference.

The Lea reference does not disclose a burn-through proof insulation package of claim 1. Instead of a fireproof insulation, as that term is defined by well known standards in the art (attached FAA regulation), Lea teaches a “fire-resistant material.” See Abstract. A fire resistant material meets a lower standard than a fireproof material (i.e., 5 minutes instead of 15 minutes). Therefore, Lea fails to anticipate claims 1 and 2 because it omits the “burn-through-

proof insulation or the burn-through-proof barrier layer,” as recited in claim 1, as previously presented.

Claims 10-12, 14-15 and 21-30 depend from claim 1, incorporating all of the limitations of claim 1 and additional limitations. Therefore, claims 1, 10-12, 14-15 and 21-30 are now in condition for allowance. None of the amendments to claim 1 are introduced to further limit claim 1. Instead, the amendments are introduced merely to overcome objects and/or rejections under §112 and put the claims into condition for allowance. Therefore all of the amendments should be entered.

For the benefit of the Examiner, a detailed view from Fig. 1 of the Lea reference is reproduced below and is compared to Fig. 4 of the Applicant's specification:



This comparison is not made to define the claims, but merely to show where the cited references fail to disclose the arrangement of elements recited in the claims. The Lea reference fails to disclose any of the arrangement of the elements cited in claim 1, even as previously amended. Particularly, nothing is “...retained on the opposite side of the rib attachment

region...,” if the insulation package of Fig. 1 of the Lea reference is taken to be on the first side of the rib attachment region. (Alternatively, nothing is on the first side, if the unit is taken to be positioned on the opposite side.) The Lea reference only suggests one insulation package overlapped on another insulation package “...by overlapping (not shown) their end portions at the frames 20 and panel 24 junctions. Thus, claim 1 recites a limitation that an insulation package be retained on a first side and an opposite side of the rib attachment region, by an attachment element, which is omitted from the Lea reference, which fails to anticipate all of the limitations of claim 1.

The amendments to claims 2 and 3 are made to overcome the rejections under §112 and conserve all of the limitations to the claims as previously amended. Claim 3 depends from claim 2, and claim 2 is amended merely to make it easier to clarify the meaning of claim 3, without changing the scope of claim 2 in any way. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests the entry of the amendments to claims 2 and 3, which put the claims in condition for allowance and reduce number of issues for appeal.

Claim 2, as previously presented, is not anticipated by the Lea reference, because the Lea reference fails to disclose the arrangement of the elements of claim 2, even as previously presented. Specifically, the Lea reference fails to disclose “...wherein the first hole [in the package region of one of the at least two insulation packages] and the second hole [in the flat insulation end section of one of the at least two insulation packages] are retained on opposite sides of the rib attachment region by the burn-through-proof attachment element,” as recited in claim 2. Instead, column 4, lines 4-8, of the Lea reference is the only suggestion of attachment of more than one insulation package. According to the cited reference, a single hole in the package is suggested, and “...the material 10 may be flattened or compressed between the frames 20 and panel 24 or two units 17 may be fastened by overlapping (not shown) their end portions at the frames 20 and panel 24 junction.” This alternative language fails to suggest limitation of claim 2 that an insulation package is retained “...on opposite sides of the rib attachment region,” by an attachment element. Indeed, the Lea reference suggests that the insulation packages are retained only between the frames 20 and the panel 24 as taught in the specification and shown in the drawings (i.e. as reproduced in the Office Action and this

response). For this reason, the Lea reference fails to disclose all the limitations of claim 2, and claim 2 is not anticipated by the Lea reference.

Claims 3-6, 8 and 9 depend from claim 2, incorporate the limitations of claim 2, and include additional limitations not disclosed in the Lea reference; therefore, claims 2-6, 8 and 9 are not anticipated by the Lea reference.

Nonobviousness

Lea not only fails to disclose but also fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the pending claims, taken either alone or in combination with the other cited references.

Specifically, the Munk reference is merely introduced to show an attachment element comprised of a steel or titanium rivet or screw connection element or a nut made of aramide or a carbon fiber reinforced plastic. This reference fails to teach or suggest any of the limitations of claims 1 and 2 omitted by the Lea reference. Therefore, the combination of Lea and Munk fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness over the pending claims.

Also, West is introduced to show limitations of dependent claims 4-6, 8-11, 14, 15 and 25-28, but West fails to introduce those limitations of claims 1-3 omitted by the Lea reference. Indeed, the entire purpose of the fastener of West is to flush mount a protective sheet material **12** to only one surface **14**. Indeed, West limits itself to "...flush-mount fastening a sheeted material to a surface" in its description of the technical field (col. 1, line 2), the abstract, the background of the invention, the summary and throughout its detailed description and claims. There is no teaching or suggestion regarding the opposite side of the one surface **14** to which a sheet material **12** must be attached.

Nothing in West teaches or suggests attaching one side of the sheet material **12** to the surface **14** and another portion of the same sheet to an opposite surface. Claims 1 and 2 have limitations attaching an insulation package on opposite surfaces of a rib attachment region that are neither taught nor suggested by the Lea and West references, taken alone or in combination; therefore, these references fail to establish *prima facie* obviousness over any of the pending claims.

Furthermore, there is no logical reason for a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the Lea reference and the West reference. There are an infinite variety of ways of

attaching insulation within an aircraft, and there are an infinite variety of ways of connecting a canvas or tarp to a surface. The only reason to combine a reference drawn solely to flush mounting of a tarp with the teachings of a reference suggesting "...the material 10 may be flattened or compressed between the frames 20 and panel 24 or two units 17 may be fastened by overlapping (not shown) their end portions at the frames 20 and panel 24 junction," is one of hindsight reasoning. If a reference teaches that a visually hidden material is sandwiched between two surfaces, then there is no reason for flush mounting the material using a fastener devised solely or primarily to minimize interference with the surface appearance. For this reason, the Applicant traverses the application of West in the way suggested by the Office Action. Since none of the attachment elements recited in the pending claims or in the Lea reference are exposed outside or within the aircraft (and with respect to the claim are more inwardly disposed toward the inside of the aircraft than the outer surface of the insulation packages according to the arrangement recited in the claims and are otherwise concealed) any justification for combining Lea with West for visual and/or aerodynamic benefits is inapplicable. There is no reason, whatsoever, that a person having ordinary skill in the art would combine Lea with West or vice versa. Since the Office Action states that the Lea reference fails to teach many of the specifics of the attachment element, those claims to the attachment element are also no obvious for this reason.

The Applicant also traverses the application of West, because there is no teaching in West that the flush mounted fastener of West would be fireproof (or even fire resistant), according to the standards of the FAA. No person having ordinary skill in the art would consider West's fastener to be "burn-through-proof" as recited in the pending claims, because there is no need for a fireproof standard for an attachment element in West that is designed to hold down a tarp or cover that is not itself fireproof.

Claims 4-6, 8 and 9

The Applicant also traverses the artificial redefinition of the terms of the claim merely to fit the embodiment illustrated in West. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit warns away from importing limitations from the Applicant's own specification into the claims, and this warning should apply equally well to redefining the claim terms merely for the sake of

being able to apply a feature found in a reference. Specifically, the Applicant points to the definition of “opposite,” which the West reference, itself, defines, in relation to the plunger pin **16** in col. 3, ll. 42-50, as having “...a shaft **16a** with a proximal end **16b** and an opposing end **16c** having a pin head **16d**.” Thus, even the West reference defines opposite ends to be at either end of a shaft **16a** and not on the opposite sides of the slit **16e** of the pin head **16d**. Thus, the Applicant traverses the identification within the office action of the two halves of the pin head separated by the slit as being equivalent to opposite ends of an elongated cylindrical core element, as recited in claim 4. This interpretation is not even supported by the teachings of the reference relied upon in the Office Action, itself and no person having ordinary skill in the art would interpret the claim to read as suggested in the Office Action.

Also, there is no “flange-like elevation formed at each end of the core element,” as recited in claim 4. The features identified in the Office Action as flange-like elevations are neither flange-like nor elevations and are not formed at each end of an elongated cylindrical core element. For this reason, the references cited fail to teach or suggest the limitations of **claim 4**, even as previously presented.

By adding that the core is “embedded in the casing made of plastic material,” as recited in **claim 5**, a person having ordinary skill knows that the core is fixed into the particular casing material, within the full context of the claims and the specification. **Claim 5** includes a limitation to “...wherein the core element is embedded...,” which is not disclosed in any of the references cited. The plunger lock plug **18** of the West reference is a separate part from the plunger pin **16** and does not cover the plunger pin **16**. Indeed, the purpose of the plunger and plug of West is merely to provide a secure fit, but neither is embedded in the other. To the contrary, the West reference, itself, is instructive in its use of the term “embedded. The flush-mounted receiving means **8** may be “...embedded in the surface **14**...” (col. 2, ll. 17-18), and the attachment ring **30** may be “...embedded in the sheeted material holding means **10**...” for securing the sheeted material **12** to the attachment ring **30**. But the West reference teaches that the plunger pin **16** is merely “secured” to the plunger lock plug **18**. See the Summary of the Invention, column 2, ll. 10-49. And the plunger pin **16** cannot be considered a core element of the plunger lock plug **18**, because the plunger lock plug **18** remains embedded in the surface **14** “...with and without the insertion of a plunger pin **16**.” See column 2, ll. 24-29. Thus, the

West reference fails to teach or suggest what the Office Action suggests that it teaches, and the West reference actually suggests the opposite.

In addition, **claim 5** must be interpreted in light of **claim 4**. In **claim 4**, there is “a casing formed around the core element.” But **claim 5** adds only the limitation that “the core element is embedded in the casing made of a plastic material.” Thus, the term embedded means something more than “formed around the core element,” of claim 4, i.e. embedded is defined in dictionaries to have the meaning of to “fix into a surrounding mass.” The Applicant believes that the Office Action fails to consider the full context of the claims and the specification in determining the meaning of “casing” and “embedded” as these terms would be understood by a person having ordinary skill in the art, as well. While not importing limitations from the specification into the claims, “casing” is a term known to refer to a outer covering. When used in the context of a “core element,” the term casing must mean an outer covering on the core element, particularly when **claim 4** recites “...a casing formed around the core element.” Formed around is something quite different than fitted to or coupled to and should not have been ignored in the Office Action. By adding that the core is “embedded in the casing made of plastic material,” as recited in **claim 5**, a person having ordinary skill knows that the core is fixed into the surrounding casing material, unlike the plunger pin **16** of West that is merely removably secured in the plunger lock plug **18**. Thus, for this reason, the Applicant traverses the rejection of **claim 5** and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of **claim 5** as based on an improper analysis of the meaning of claim 5, without proper context from the claims and the specification.

Now referring to the Long reference, Long is introduced to teach or suggest limitations of claim 4-6, 10-12, 14 and 25-30 omitted from the Lea reference. But Long fails to teach or suggest anything about a rib or an attachment surface of a rib or any type of attachment mechanism that might be useful for attaching an insulation package to a rib, or for that matter, anything about an insulation package, as that term is understood in the art. Instead, the Long reference merely discloses spacer rods useful for temporarily positioning a rigid insulating panel within a concrete wall during pouring of the concrete wall. See the Abstract and Summary of the Invention. Thus, the Long reference fails to teach or suggest those limitations of claims 1-3 omitted by the Lea reference. Specifically, the arrangement of the elements in the

Long reference fails to teach or suggest the arrangement of the elements as recited in claims 1-3 (as previously discussed in relation to the failure of the Lea reference to anticipate or establish obviousness over claims 1 and 2).

The Applicant points out that the material of the retainer of the Long reference fails to meet the stringent requirement of being fireproof, according to the well recognized standard of the FAA. The Long reference fails to teach or suggest any fire or flame resistance, whatsoever.

Furthermore, the justification of mitigating thermal short circuitry fails to provide an adequate logical reason for a person having ordinary skill in the art to install an insulation panel, using spacers, between poured concrete walls in an aircraft. The spacer rods of the Long reference are not capable of being burn-through-proof attachment elements for insulation packages in aircraft under the standards of the FAA; therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not substitute the spacer rods of the Long reference for the metal rivets or pins disclosed in the Lea reference. Thus, the Applicant traverses the combination of the Long reference and the Lea reference.

The Applicant petitions the Examiner for reconsideration of finality of the Office Action. The Applicant did not have the benefit of a full and complete explanation of the basis for the rejections in the previous office action, and the Applicant believes that this response will advance prosecution on the merits by clarifying the differences between the cited references and the meaning of the claims. Applicant believes that there is still confusion about the meaning of some of the claim terms and the support provided in the specification for some of the claims, which should be resolved prior to designating the office action final.

No new subject matter is entered by any of the amendments, all of the amendments were made to overcome rejections under Section 112 or to correct formal errors. The amendments put all of the claims in condition for allowance. Entry of all the amendments and reconsideration of the allowability of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

Dated: April 20, 2009

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher Paradies, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 45,692
FOWLER WHITE BOGGS P.A.
501 East Kennedy Blvd., Suite 1700
Tampa, Florida 33602
Telephone: (813) 222-1190

CJP:kat

40678593v1

Advisory Circular

Subject: POWERPLANT INSTALLATION AND
PROPULSION SYSTEM COMPONENT FIRE
PROTECTION TEST METHODS, STANDARDS,
AND CRITERIA.

Date: 2/6/90
Initiated by: ANM-110

AC No: 20-135
Change:

1 **PURPOSE.** This advisory circular (AC) provides guidance for use in demonstrating compliance with the powerplant fire protection requirements of the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR). Included in this document are methods for fire testing of materials and components used in the propulsion engines and APU installations, and in areas adjacent to designated fire zones, as well as the rationale for these methods. Since the method of compliance presented in this AC is not mandatory, the terms "shall" and "must," as used in this AC, apply only to an applicant who chooses to follow this particular method without deviation.

2 **RELATED FAR SECTIONS.** The applicable FAR sections are listed in appendix 1 of this AC.

3 **BACKGROUND.** Although § 1.1 of the FAR provides general definitions for the terms "fireproof" and "fire resistant," these definitions do not specify heat intensity, temperature levels, duration (exposure time), or an appropriate wall thickness or other dimensional characteristics for the purpose intended. With the advent of surface coatings (i.e., ablative/intumescent), composites, and metal honeycomb for acoustically treated ducting, cowling, and other components which may form a part of the nacelle firewall, applicant confusion sometimes exists as to how compliance can be shown, particularly with respect to the definition of "fireproof" and "fire resistant" as defined in § 1.1.

4. **DEFINITIONS.** For the purposes of this AC, the following definitions apply:

a. **Fireproof:** The capability of a material or component to withstand, as well as or better than steel, a 2000°F flame ($\pm 150^\circ\text{F}$) for 15 minutes minimum, while still fulfilling its design purpose. The term "fireproof," when applied to materials and parts used to confine fires within designated fire zones, means that the material or part will perform this function under conditions likely to occur in such zones and will withstand a 2000°F flame ($\pm 150^\circ\text{F}$) for 15 minutes minimum.

b. **Fire Resistant:** When applied to powerplant installations such as fluid-carrying lines, flammable fluid system components, wiring, air ducts, fittings and powerplant controls, "fire resistant" means the capability of a material or component to perform its intended functions under the heat and other conditions likely to occur at the particular location and to withstand a

2000°F flame ($\pm 150^\circ\text{F}$) for 5 minutes minimum. (Example: A fire resistant hose which will withstand a 2000°F flame for 5 minutes.)

c. Engine Case Burnthrough: A fire condition within the engine which burns through the engine case, allowing a high pressure and high temperature gas stream to escape from the engine.

d. Heat Flux Density: The rate of thermal energy in BTU/ft²-sec of the flame: One of the following devices shall be used to measure heat flux density of the test flame:

(1) Calorimeter: The calorimeter to be used in testing must be a 0-15.0 BTU/ft²-sec (0-17.0 W/cm²) Calorimeter, accurate to \pm 3 percent.

(2) BTU Heat Transfer Device: See FAA Powerplant Engineering Report No. 3A (appendix 2 of this AC) for fabrication details of a copper tube device used to measure heat flux density.

NOTE: In accordance with Powerplant Report 3A, the copper tube shall be set up without any type of backing plate behind the copper tube.

e. Thermocouples: The thermocouples to be used should be bare junction 1/16 to 1/8-inch metal sheathed, ceramic packed, ~~chromel-almel~~, thermocouples with nominal 22 to 30 AWG (American Wire Gage) size conductors or equivalent. An air aspirated, shielded, thermocouple should not be used.

5. FIRE PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES.

a. The primary objectives of fireproof and fire resistant materials and components are to contain and isolate a fire and prevent other sources of fuel or air from feeding the existing fire, and to ensure that components of the engine control system will function effectively to permit a safe shutdown of the engine or APU and safe feathering of the propeller.

b. To demonstrate satisfactory containment capability, the materials or components must have adequate strength for the foreseen flight and operating loads under the conditions of a fire to allow proper fire detection, flightcrew recognition, and subsequent corrective action. In addition gaseous emissions from fire protection materials shall be precluded from entering the cabin air conditioning system.

c. Fire testing should simulate the likely fire environment to prove the materials and components will provide the necessary fire containment to meet the above objectives when exposed to a fire situation in service.

d. The descriptors "fireproof" and "fire resistant" differ only in the time duration that the material or component should maintain its integrity or perform its function. "Fire resistant" means the material or component will function and maintain its integrity for a minimum of 5

minutes when exposed to a 2000°F flame temperature. "Fireproof" means the material or component will maintain its integrity and function for a minimum of 15 minutes when exposed to a 2000°F flame temperature.

6 FIRE TEST EQUIPMENT STANDARDS AND TEST CRITERIA. Fire tests should meet and produce the following conditions and environment:

a. Test Equipment Criteria.

(1) Specified flame impingement temperature, heat flux density, and flame distribution.

(2) Critical actual operating loads and environmental conditions (air and fluid flow rates, pressures, structural loads, and the like).

(3) Specified fire and heat flux exposure duration.

b. Burner Equipment: Heat flux density and temperature capability.

(1) The basic torch or burner requirements are that the flame should produce a 2000°F temperature within 1/4 inch of the specimen and engulf or provide representative impingement coverage, dependent on specimen size. In addition, the burner or torch should provide a heat flux density of at least 9.3 BTU/ft²-set or 4500 BTU/hr using the BTU heat transfer device, unless it can be shown that the heat flux density for the configuration under test will not inherently affect the results of the test (ref. paragraph d(4) below).

(2) Procedure: The burner shall be lit, allowing a 5-minute warm up. Conduct the calibration for heat flux density and obtain a flame temperature of 2000°F. Immediately after successfully completing the calibration, rotate or move the burner to the test specimen, maintaining the same distance of the specimen from the burner as the thermocouples/heat flux density device were from the burner during burner calibration. Do not shut off the burner between the calibration and the actual test. Ensure the thermocouple(s) is positioned in the flame, 1/4 inch in front of the test specimen.

c. Acceptable Burner/Torch Configuration. Depending on the specific application, the following burners have been used:

(1) The type specified in Powerplant Engineering Report No. 3A (see appendix 2, Nos. 1, 5, and 6).. This burner has been used to test flammable fluid-carrying components, cowling, composite materials, firewalls materials, fuel and hydraulic hoses, and other similar applications.

(2) SAE 401 Burner (standard). This burner has been used for testing fire detectors, associated electrical wiring, and similar applications and is specified in various Technical Standard Orders (TSO)

and military standards. NOTE: This burner should not be used for powerplant installation fire testing in accordance with this AC.

(3) SAE 401 Burner adjusted to increase the output to at least 9.3 Btu/ft²-sec heat flux density. This adjusted burner has been used to test firewall materials, composite materials, cowling, electrical wiring, fuel flowmeters, firewall fittings, and other components.

(4) Propane and oxy-acetylene torch-standard and diverging nozzles. The propane or oxy-acetylene burner has been used for wiring, flow meters, firewall penetrations, and other "small" component type applications.

(5) Miscellaneous burners have been found acceptable by the FAA for the intended applications. Component and material fire testing has been accomplished using the manufacturer's choice of burner, provided acceptability by the FAA has been determined with respect to flame size/impingement area and heat flux density, and the temperature at the test article was 2000°F. The adequacy of the burner depends on the size of the component, installation considerations, and on the flame completely engulfing the exposed portion or "face" of the component, or covering a representative portion of sheet material.

d. Acceptable Test Criteria and Philosophy.

(1) The test for demonstrating compliance with the criteria for "fireproof" and "fire resistant" materials, components, and fittings is to expose the specimen to the required flame temperature and heat flux density for the required time (15 minutes for "fireproof" and 5 minutes for "fire resistant"). The specimen shall withstand flame penetration and not exhibit backside ignition for the required test time. Sheet materials and panels shall be tested by exposing a sample size approximately 10 inches on a side (10"x10", or a size appropriate for the intended application) to a flame from an acceptable burner at the test operating conditions outlined in paragraph 7. The flame size and temperatures shall be sufficient to maintain the required test temperature and heat flux density over an area of approximately 5"x5" for sheet materials and panels.

(2) Fittings used in firewalls and in fire zones shall be completely enveloped in the flame on the side that would normally be exposed to fire in the fire zone. The fittings shall be mounted in a manner simulating the actual installation, and fluid lines or tubing may be connected to both ends of the fitting to simulate the installation that would be present during a typical fire event. However, for the testing of fluid-fittings, there should be no fluid in the line on the engine side of the fitting in the fire zone, since the fire may have been caused by a failure of the line to the fitting under evaluation. Likewise, if failure of the line on the engine side of the firewall could drain the fluid from that portion of the line upstream of the firewall, up to the fluid shutoff valve, then the lines connected to both sides of the fitting should not

contain fluid for this testing. If the fitting is part of the shutoff valve, then the line behind or upstream of the valve should contain fluid. For operational components, such as check valves, lines, etc., the flame should completely envelop the unit.

(3) Technical Standard Order, TSO-C53a, Fuel and Engine Oil System Hose Assemblies, and TSO-C75, Hydraulic Hose Assemblies, specify hose assembly fire resistance requirements. These hose assemblies should be exposed to a 2000°F flame for 5 minutes while maintaining the fuel or oil at critical (minimum or maximum) operating flow rates and pressures without evidence of any leakage. The 5-minute exposure provides a reasonable time for the flightcrew to recognize a fire condition, shut down the appropriate engine, and close the appropriate shutoff valve(s), thus shutting off a liquid flow to the engine compartment. It is important to evaluate the particular installation and obtain the minimum flow rate over the entire operating envelope. Although the TSO specifies a flow rate in gallons per minute of 3 to 5 times the (ID)², ID measured in inches, experience has shown, for example, that a hydraulic system drain or return line not under system demand can have no flow or a flow quite a bit less than that specified by 3 times (ID)². The lower flow rate should then be used for the fire resistant or fireproof testing. The fire test procedure for hoses is outlined in FAA Powerplant Engineering Report No. 3A, (see appendix 2, Nos. 1, 5, and 6).

(4) The operational criteria required for various components depends on the kind of component to be tested. For example, if the unit is an oil line routed through a fire zone with the shutoff valve located outside and downstream of the fire zone, the line should withstand the test flame, without leakage or failure, for 15 minutes. If the unit under test is a shutoff valve located in the engine compartment fire zone, the valve should be exposed to the burner or flame for 5 minutes. The valve should not leak and should be able to be closed by normal application means at the end of the 5-minute exposure. After the valve has been closed, it is to be exposed to the flame for an additional 10 minutes, and the valve should not leak. Operational components should be subjected to the fire tests in every installation, unless similarity to previously approved configurations can be shown, or they are made of steel or copper based alloys, or they are of such construction that their capability to operate satisfactorily under fire conditions is obvious.

(5) Electrical and mechanical controls (cables, electrical wires, drive links, etc.) for components such as shutoff valves located in the engine compartment or other designated fire zones are required to be "fire resistant." These shall be tested at a 2000°F temperature for 5 minutes. At the end of 5 minutes, the control shall perform its intended function without failure or malfunction. The flame should completely envelop the control and the end fittings and connections from one direction, all as a unit. Where control rods or cables are to be tested, a typical section is all that is

required to be evaluated. About 8 inches of the typical section will suffice in most tests, including the end connections and fittings. For testing cable controls, the normal rigging load should be simulated. Control rods which act in compression to operate their component should have the flame applied over the center portion of the rod length where the column compression action will most likely cause failure of the material. Flammable fluid shutoff valve controls should be tested for fire resistance in each installation, except where the cables or rods are purely tension controls and constructed of steel or other materials shown to be "fire resistant" or are designed such that their operation in fire conditions is obvious.

(6) The following minimum thickness materials are considered acceptable for use in firewalls or shrouds for non structural/non load-carrying applications, without being subjected to additional fire tests:

(i) Stainless steel sheet, .015 inch thick.

(ii) Mild steel sheet protected against corrosion, .018 inch thick.

(iii) Titanium sheet, .016 inch thick.

(iv) ~~Monel~~ metal sheet, .018 inch thick.

(v) Steel or copper base alloy firewall fittings/fasteners.

NOTE: Distortion of thin sheet materials and the subsequent gapping at lap joints or between rivets is difficult to predict; therefore, testing of the simulated installation is necessary to prove the integrity of the design. However, rivet pitches of 2 inches or less on non load-carrying titanium firewalls of .020 inch or steel firewalls of .018 inch are acceptable without further testing.

(7) In every application the applicant should coordinate and obtain approval for the fire test ~~verification~~ plan and other certification testing for the fireproof and fire resistant aspects of the proposed installation with the FAA office responsible for the project.

(8) At the conclusion of the testing, a report, including photographs, which describes the fire test results and addresses the pertinent items identified in this advisory circular should be submitted for FAA approval.

7. FIRE PROTECTION INSTALLATION AND DESIGN FEATURES.

a. Structural Operating Environment. The structural static and dynamic loading to be simulated during the testing is a function of the component or material and the intended use and location, and should be

2/ 6/90

addressed in the test plan. Firewall or component structural loading conditions must be identified and incorporated in the fire test setup. Flexible hoses are fire tested at anticipated fuel or oil internal pressures, flow rates, and vibratory conditions. The test is intended to simulate aircraft powerplant fire conditions, with the fuel, oil flow, and pressures at critical operating conditions.

b. Design and Application Factors. There are a number of other important factors which can influence the test conditions required to substantiate firewalls and fire resistant surfaces. These considerations are classified into two categories. One is the "intended use" of the firewall or fire resistant surface. For example, is its intended use a cowl door or the inner wall of an engine fan exhaust duct or an inlet duct, or an isolating diaphragm with its primary purpose being a firewall? The second category relates to the firewall or fire resistant surface construction. Is it a complex composite structure bonded with resin and coated with a fire retardant, or is it an acoustic panel, or simply a stainless steel, titanium, or other basic metallic configuration? Typically, panels representative of the proposed structure (approximately 1-1/2 by 2 feet) have been acceptable for demonstrating fire protection capability.

(1) **Intended Use" Test Criteria.

(i) If the firewall is a diaphragm or simple separation type non load-carrying bulkhead in a nacelle area with low ventilation and circulation air flow and a small pressure load, a simple fire test at ambient environmental laboratory conditions is acceptable to demonstrate fireproof properties.

(ii) If the firewall is the nacelle cowling with approximately 1/2 psi or less nacelle pressurization, scrubbing airflow may be utilized without consideration for having to run the test with nacelle pressurization.

(iii) If the firewall is an engine fan air exit duct or inlet adapter, "cool side" (backside) pressure and airflow conditions should be properly simulated during the testing. The test should be performed with the airflow and pressure the duct will normally be exposed to during critical power operating conditions for the initial 5 minutes and at windmilling conditions for the additional 10 minutes of the fire test, if this is the most severe heat condition. Fan exhaust ducts normally have their critical differential pressures existing across the duct at sea level, takeoff conditions. Inlet adapter type ducting will usually be at the maximum pressure when the engine is shut down in flight and allowed to windmill. These operating conditions should be determined by the applicant for use in the fire test. Typically, unprotected acoustic honeycomb specimens which fail this test will rupture due to loss of

strength under pressure during the first few minutes of testing, allowing air flow into the fire zone.

(iv) The test criteria in paragraph 7b(1)(iii) above, addressing the addition of airflow to a firezone during a fire condition, also applies to cooling air ducts, bleed air ducts, etc., located or routed within the fire zone.

(v) Aircraft engines with turbochargers operate at elevated temperatures and pressures within the engine compartment. Components adjacent to the turbocharger and exhaust systems should be evaluated for operation at these elevated temperatures and pressures. Also, any flammable fluid-carrying component or other system should be evaluated for a possible exhaust system component failure with resultant exhaust gas leakage. When those turbochargers are used for cabin pressurization, all air inlet ducts within the engine compartment should be evaluated for component burnthrough or release of noxious fumes within the cabin ventilation system.

(2) Firewall Construction Test Considerations. Bonded construction firewalls (composites or bonded metal matrix), in addition to being pressurized during testing, may need to be vibrated. This should be accomplished for all specimens with a sprayed, painted-on, or bonded-on protective coating intended to insulate the base material from the fire conditions. Past tests have shown some ablative and intumescent coatings become extremely brittle when exposed to flames. Vibration can cause the coating to flake off, exposing the base material. Current experience has not supported the use of an intumescent coating as an acceptable fire protection coating, because the coatings have lacked durability and exhibited poor adhesion characteristics in service. For composites or other "new" materials, more than one test panel may be required to show repeatability of the configuration.

c. Outgassing. A characteristic of bonded construction firewalls materials and seal materials is the outgassing of the volatile constituents of the bonding resins or seal materials. This can occur from either the hot or cool side surface of the specimens during the test. These gasses are, in most instances, highly flammable. Ignition occurring on the cool side is unacceptable in passing the fire test. Where the cool side surface is exposed, visual observations will suffice to note if ignition has occurred. However, if the specimen is subjected to pressure loading during the test, or the cool side is hidden from view, then other methods to detect the ignition should be defined. It should be noted that some acoustically treated ducts are of metal construction, and the face sheets are bonded to the honeycomb core with resins which can exhibit outgassing. For these types of construction, no "cool side" ignition is allowed and verification is required.

CAUTION: Specimen size should be large enough to prevent flame wraparound of the specimen edge to provide a more accurate simulation of the actual installation.

(1) Upon initial application of the test torch flame, minor flareup at the flame impingement area may occur; however, continuous burning or a significant increase of the flame pattern over the entire specimen is unacceptable. Ignition of the backside as well as penetration are the other anomalies which are cause to reject the component. Excessive outgassing, especially from composite construction, should be investigated to ensure the smoke will not ignite. Additional testing of samples should be requested to ensure that:

(i) Any surface flareup is self extinguishing and does not burn after removal of the test flame and,

(ii) Self re-ignition of the material does not occur when the flame is removed.

(2) If the gases emitted during the fire tests can enter the personnel compartment, the gases must be evaluated for their toxicity, volatility, and possible impairment of the crew or passengers.

d. Unique Design Testing Considerations.

(1) The applicant should evaluate firewall designs, putting special emphasis on fuel and oil lines, cowling and/or bleed duct, and other firewall penetration points to determine the need for a specific fire test setup and incorporation of the penetrations in the firewall test specimen. As noted in paragraph 6d(2), flammable fluid-carrying lines and fittings need careful consideration. The use of previously approved corrosion-resistant steel or equivalent material is considered satisfactory without further tests. Use of aluminum alloy for any size line/fitting on either side of a firewall should be avoided. An evaluation of the specific installation configuration and actual minimum flow rates should be accomplished to determine fire resistant or fireproof capability. Previous tests (appendix 2, No. 3) have shown aluminum couplings (3/4 inch or larger) have leaked after exposure to the test flame for 5 minutes with nominal 30 psi pressure and a fluid flow rate in gallons per minute equal to 5 times the (ID)³, ID measured in inches. All sizes of aluminum fittings up to 2 inches failed the "no flow" conditions. Five minutes is acceptable for fire resistant tubing; however, all firewall fittings/penetrations are required to maintain the integrity of the firewall without flame penetration or leakage for 15 minutes. Other designs which require special considerations are butt-joint seals between firewall diaphragms, cowl doors and where a cowl door is part of the firewall, seals between the doors, and drain/vent masts interfacing with the doors. Special fire tests of these "kiss" seals will be necessary to ensure the capability of the overall firewall.

NOTE: When dedicated protection devices or specific procedures or techniques are required to provide fire protection for an installation, development of periodic maintenance or requirements for inspection of these devices or techniques is required so that continued airworthiness is assured.

(2) For engine cowlings and nacelles of small airplanes and helicopters, the fire resistant requirements of § 23.1193(c) and § 27.1193(d) have been interpreted to allow use of any material shown to be equivalent to aluminum alloy. Cowlings are subject to airflow over one or both sides, which greatly improves the fire resistant capability of the aluminum and has been found to be acceptable. For example, a .04-inch aluminum panel with an 80 Kt minimum scrubbing airflow over the backside has been shown to maintain its integrity when subjected to a 2000°F flame for 15 minutes.

e. Special Test Consideration. In tests, particularly where testing is conducted using a burner other than one specified in Powerplant Engineering Report No. 3A, anomalies may be encountered due to torch blast effects and local hot spots created due to nonuniform heating of the specimens. These anomalies may be overcome with carefully designed burner tube extensions which spread the flame over a larger surface, as described in the report. An example of a fire test setup is shown in Figure 1.

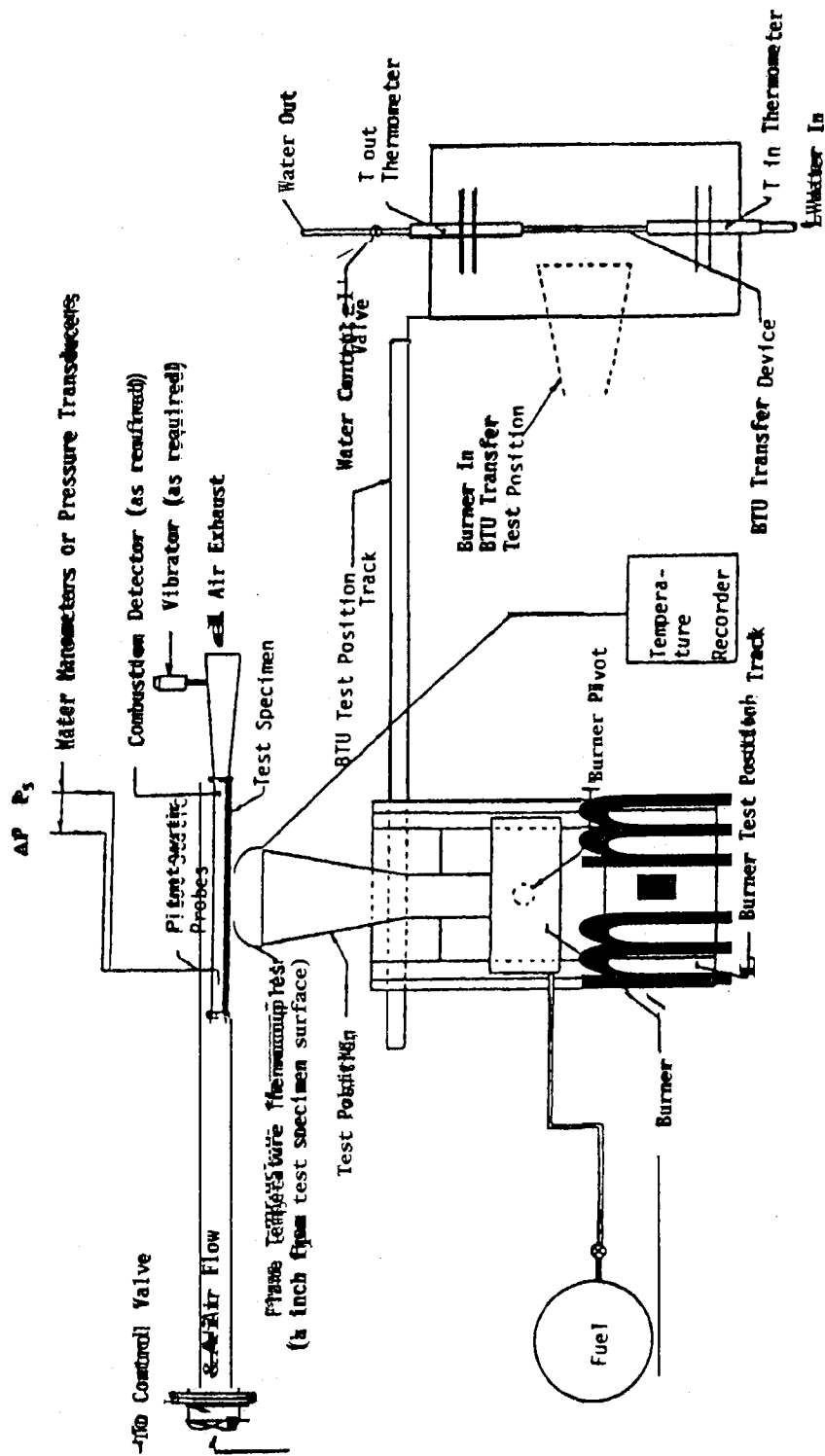


Figure 1. Example of a fire test setup.

This setup is intended to illustrate the necessary equipment for fire testing. For some tests, the requirement may be less; however, for all testing, the applicant should coordinate the test requirements with the FAA office responsible for the project, submit a detailed calibration and test plan, and verify that all of the needed testing conditions have been covered for the installation to be evaluated.

NOTE: The test hardware design should ensure that test hardware sagging or warping does not alter the burner-to-specimen distance resulting in temperature and heat flux density going outside the defined levels. Also the test rig design should preclude significant deposit of specimen debris on the burner.

8. ENGINE CASE BURNTHROUGH CRITERIA ~~§~~ 23.903 (b)(1) and 25.903(d)(1).

The above discussion on fireproof materials and the test methods and criteria are not appropriate for demonstrating the requirement for minimizing the hazard from engine case burnthrough situations.

a. If the installation design provides a burnthrough barrier for deflecting an engine combustion chamber burnthrough and a fire detector installation to provide quick detection of the event, an evaluation is necessary to show that proposed protection is adequate. Although combustion chamber design has continually improved, service experience has shown that turbine engine case burnthroughs have and continue to occur. Burnthroughs have also been caused by other types of failures such as, for example, fuel nozzle malfunctions, turbine vane burnout, and combustion chamber cracking.

b. Normally the area of concern is the projection between the forward and aft combustion flange of the engine case, including a 15° cone from the engine flange. This is the section of the engine where the hot, high pressure gas stream from a burnthrough may emerge in the direction of the pylon. A specific engine configuration may be shown to have more or less engine length where burnthrough should be considered. The temperatures (approximately 3000 - 3500°F) and gas pressures (approximately 350 - 550 psi) are considerably higher than the criteria and melting point of the materials used in firewall construction; therefore, conventional firewalls will generally fail in a very localized area and can expose the pylon, fuselage, or wing to a hazardous situation which could go undetected for a considerable length of time. Experience and tests have shown that for a radial distance of approximately 10 burnthrough hole diameters from the engine case surface or burnthrough "hole," the temperatures and pressures do not significantly decay. However, effects of discrete installation considerations (such as fan or full fan ducted airflow) should be individually addressed with respect to the "applied" characteristics of the burnthrough gas stream.

c. The test setup and torch configuration required to verify burnthrough protection is a torch with a nominal 1-inch diameter orifice or nozzle, having a torch pressure approximately the same as the maximum

burner pressure of the installed engine. The test article (burnthrough barrier) should be located at the same distance and supported similar to the proposed installation. The engine burnthrough criterion requires that under these operating conditions the barrier will maintain its integrity for a minimum of 3 minutes when exposed to a minimum flame temperature of 3000°F.

d. The proposed certification test plan, including the above operating environment, should be submitted to the FAA office responsible for the project for coordination and acceptance prior to conducting the fire testing.



Daniel P. Salvano
Acting Director, Aircraft
Certification Service

APPENDIX 1. RELATED FAR SECTIONS

The sections listed below identify requirements that will necessitate the use of the fire testing methods and standards outlined in this AC to show compliance with the applicable powerplant and APU regulations in FAR Parts 1, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 33.

<u>FAR PART</u>	<u>SECTION</u>
1	1.1
23	23.859 , 23.863 , 23.903 , 23.1013 23.1091 , 23.1121 , 23.1123 , 23.1141 , 23.1182 , 23.1183 , 23.1189 , 23.1191 , 23.1192 , and 23.1193 .
25	25.859 , 25.863 , 25.867 , 25.903 , 25.1013 , 25.1091 , 25.1103 , 25.1121 , 25.1123 , 25.1165 , 25.1181 , 25.1182 , 25.1183 , 25.1189 , 25.1191 , 25.1192 , 25.1193 , 25.1201 , 25.1203 , and 25.1207 .
27	27.859 , 27.863 , 27.903 , 27.1123 , 27.1183 , 27.1185 , 27.1189 , 27.1191 , 27.1193 , 27.1194 , and 27.1195 .
29	29.859 , 29.863 , 29.903 , 29.1025 , 29.1103 , 29.1121 , 29.1123 , 29.1165 , 29.1183 , 29.1189 , 29.1191 , 29.1193 , 29.1194 , 29.1201 , and 29.1203 .
33	33.17, 33.71..

APPENDIX 2. RELATED READING MATERIAL

1. Federal Aviation Administration: Powerplant Engineering Report No. **3A**, Standard Fire Test Apparatus and Procedure, Revised March 1978.
2. Federal Aviation Administration: Report No. **FAA-RD-76-21B3**, **Re-evaluation** of Burner Characteristics for Fire Resistance Tests, dated January 1977.
3. Federal Aviation Administration: Report No. **DS-67-4**, A Study of the Fire Resistance of Aluminum Alloy Tubing and Fittings, April 1967.
4. Department of Commerce, Civil Aeronautics Administration, Safety Regulation Release No. **259**, Compliance of Equipment and Materials Used in Air Carrier Aircraft with Fire Prevention Requirements, August 26, 1947.
5. Society of Automotive Engineers: **AS 1055B**, Fire Testing of Flexible Hose, Tube Assemblies, Coils, Fittings and Similar System Components, Revised March 1, 1978.
6. Society of Automotive Engineers: **AIR 1377A**, Fire Test Equipment for Flexible Hose and Tube Assemblies, Revised January 1980.
7. FAA Technical Standard Order, **TSO-C42**, Propeller Feathering Hose Assemblies.
8. FAA Technical Standard Order, **TSO-C43a**, Fuel and Engine Oil System Hose Assemblies.
9. FAA Technical Standard Order, **TSO-C75**, Hydraulic Hose Assemblies.